



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Administrators, Nonpublic School Administrators, and Directors and Representatives of Teacher Education Programs (DARTEP)

FROM: Venessa Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Flexibility in American Sign Language Teacher Placements

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance regarding flexibility in teacher qualifications for appropriate placement in American Sign Language (ASL) classes that are offered for world language credit. Due to the scarcity of ASL endorsed teachers and of approved programs for preparing teachers for the ASL endorsement in Michigan, the following options for staffing ASL classes are offered:

1. A current ASL (FS) endorsed teacher may teach ASL as a world language at the grade levels indicated on their certificate.
2. A teacher currently certified and endorsed with Hearing Impairment (SL) AND able to demonstrate an ASL proficiency level of Intermediate Plus or higher on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) or 3 or higher on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), may teach ASL as a world language at the grade levels indicated on their certificate. No permit is needed.
3. A non-certified individual, or a currently certified teacher without the SL or FS endorsements, able to demonstrate an ASL proficiency level of Survival Plus OR higher on the SLPI or 2 or higher on the ASLPI, may be employed under a school district issued Full Year Permit to teach ASL as a world language. The school district must post and advertise the vacancy as stipulated in R 390.1142. Applications for permits are submitted via the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS). In order for the school to renew the permit for the following year as prescribed in Administrative Rule, the educator must either complete a minimum of 6 credit hours in a planned program leading to the FS endorsement OR demonstrate increased proficiency on the SLPI or ASLPI OR maintain a level above those specified in option 2 each year.

Questions may be directed to Sean Kottke, Education Consultant, at KottkeS@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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